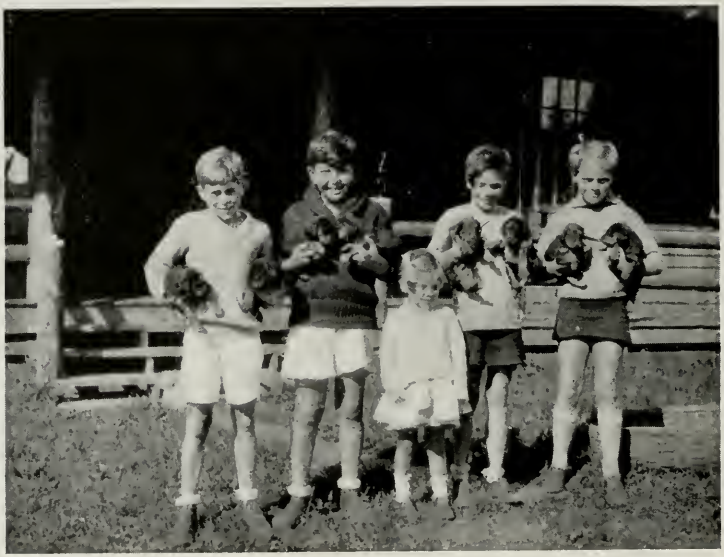
Secretary's Report
Class of 1866
Harvard College
1929



Four of Shortlidge's Grandchildren, One of Their Friends and Eight Airedale Puppies

From left to right: Anne, Friend, Peggy, Mary, Jane, George

THE TWENTY-EIGHTH

SECRETARY'S REPORT

OF

THE CLASS OF 1866

OF

HARVARD COLLEGE

JUNE, 1929

BOSTON

Printed for the use of the Class

1929

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CLASS COMMITTEE

CHARLES EDWIN STRATTON, *Class Secretary*
JOHN DAVIS WILLIAMS

The Secretary's address is 50 State Street, Boston, Mass.

THOMAS TODD CO., PRINTERS, BOSTON

50 State Street, Boston.
June, 1929.

Dear Classmates:—

Here is your little book for your 63rd Commencement since graduation.

The one cheerful thing that has marked the past year is that no one has fallen out of the ranks, and that all those who were here a year ago are here now, all present and accounted for. I had written thus far and the next day I learned of the death of our dear classmate, Flagg. *Requiescat in pace.*

I will say no more now, and only onee more wish you all health and happiness for the coming year.

Yours faithfully and affectionately,

Charles E. Stratton,
Class Secretary.

ADDRESSES OF THE CLASS

Samuel A. B. Abbott, Villa Lontana, via Cassia, Rome, Italy, or Wellesley Hills, Mass.

Alexander D. Dunbar, 205 Nelson Avenue, Peekskill, N. Y.

Dr. Edward W. Emerson, Concord, Mass.

Edward N. Fenno, 87 Milk Street, Boston.

Dr. Thomas P. Shaw, 110 18th Street, Lowell, Mass.

Swithin C. Shortlidge, The Storm King School, Cornwall-on-Hudson, N. Y.

Moorfield Storey, 53 State Street, Boston.

Charles E. Stratton, 50 State Street, Boston.

Thomas W. Ward, 231A Perkins Street, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

Dr. Leonard Wheeler, 12 Chestnut Street, Worcester, Mass.

John D. Williams, 1180 Beacon Street, Brookline.

John V. Apthorp, 53 State Street, Boston.

J. Murray Forbes, 107 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, or Milton, Mass.

Charles Ouellet, Hebertville, Lake St. John, Quebec.

Colonel Joseph H. Willard, U.S.A., 41 Catherine Street, Newport, R. I.

RECORD OF THE CLASS

SAMUEL APPLETON BROWNE ABBOTT. Born March 6, 1846.

He writes from Rome, May 20th: "I may possibly be with you. I have at present the hope of sailing from Naples on June 10th. In that case I shall be with you, if Commencement is not before the 20th. I am more sorry than I can say because I cannot help you with your book, but I can at least send my best wishes and greetings to one and all of the old boys."

The Secretary is sorry to say that since the above, Abbott has cabled that he will not sail until June 15th.

ALEXANDER DONLEY DUNBAR. Born March 21, 1846.

He writes: "I was glad to receive the notice of Commencement and reunion, a pleasant assurance of your continued health and activity, although it bore also the sad news of the passing of Miss Hayes whom we all regarded so highly, not alone because she was sister to our beloved classmate, but because of her delightful personality, her vivid presence, and her sincere attachment to the friends he cherished.

"While the year has passed quickly, still from time to time there have been physical reminders of its passing, but on the whole, time has dealt gently, friends have been near me, and good health has blest me. So, expecting to see you in June, I have nothing to write but best wishes for the men of '66."

EDWARD WALDO EMERSON. Born July 10, 1844.

His son, Mr. Raymond Emerson, H. C. 1910, writes: "My father has lost a great deal of ground in the last few months. He is entirely comfortable and is as happy and cheerful as any man in his condition could be. His classmates might be glad to know that he is still able to enjoy his home and family and, when his mind is at all clear, he is as cheerful and brave as possible. If he were able, I know he would send his love and affectionate greetings to all the members of the class."

EDWARD NICOLL FENNO. Born November 4, 1845.

He writes: "I am in receipt of your note of May 15th and very much regret with you the passing of Miss Susan Hayes, whom I always considered one of my good old friends.

"I am sorry I have no exciting events to report during the past year in my life. The time has passed very quickly with me, and I have been so crippled by arthritis that I have been more or less confined to my chair; otherwise I am in very good health and spirits and shall be exceedingly glad, as always, to grasp you by the hand and sing 'Hurrah! Hurrah! for '66. Hurrah!' "

*GEORGE AUGUSTUS FLAGG, son of Benjamin Flagg of Millbury, Mass., was born at Millbury, May 2, 1845. He fitted for college at Phillips Academy, Exeter. He entered Harvard with the Class in 1862 and received his A.B. in course and A.M. in 1889. He stood fairly well in his studies, high in the good opinion of his classmates, and highest of all as the wonderful catcher of our baseball nine, at the close of at least one victorious game being borne from the field on the shoulders of his enthusiastic admirers. After graduation he attended the Harvard Law School, graduating with LL.B. in 1868. He was admitted to the bar at Worcester in 1869, and the same year was appointed a trial justice. Thereafter he practised law and was also Treasurer of the Millbury Cotton Mills, and about 1880 was made auditor of the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company. He later had a law office at Boston. In 1889 he moved his residence from Millbury to Holliston, Mass., where he lived the rest of his life. He continued to be auditor of the Calumet and Hecla until August, 1893, since when he was its Secretary and Treasurer till 1915, when he resigned his office and was elected a director of the Company. Meanwhile he had been Treasurer of the Buffalo Smelting Works and also Secretary of several copper companies.

In earlier life he took a lively interest and an active part in politics. In 1877 he was a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and later a member of the Republican State Committee. He was its Secretary in 1883 and in 1884, until

Blaine's nomination for President by the Republican Party in 1884, to which nomination Flagg was strongly opposed. About 1886 he was Assistant Adjutant-General, with the rank of Colonel, on the staff of the Governor of the Commonwealth.

He led a quiet and retired life during the last few years. In answer to the Secretary's annual letter his son Charles wrote that his father had been confined to his bed for nearly six months, that his mind was clear and that he sent his greetings and best wishes to the Class.' This message was in type for the Report when the sad news came of his death at 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, June 11th. So ended this long, useful, honorable life.

June 15, 1869, in New York City, he was married to Fanny W. Jewett, daughter of Charles A. and Susan W. Jewett of New York. Mrs. Flagg died a few years ago. He is survived by two sons, George Flagg and Charles J. Flagg, H. C. 1898, and several grandchildren.

The Secretary can only add his great regret that he did not have more time to prepare a fuller and better memorial notice of our dear classmate.

THOMAS PIERPONT SHAW. Born September 27, 1843.

He writes: "It is with most poignant regret that I have to decline the pleasure of accepting your kind invitation to meet you, and those who still remain of our beloved class, Commencement Day.

"Except to announce my continued existence, and my undiminished affection for you all, I can think of only one item of personal news, and that is not a very pleasant one. I had a rather severe attack of 'Shingles' last summer, from whose merciless clutch there seems to be no future escape."

SWITHIN CHANDLER SHORTLIDGE. Born June 8, 1840.

He writes: "Your Maximus Senectute is glad to receive your notice of our Class's program for Commencement, June 20, 1929.

"To advise you somewhat of my happy family environment

at both Camp Marienfeld, Chesham, N. H., and also of my Storm King School surroundings, I am sending you five photographs which I hope may interest my classmates during their call at your Commonwealth Avenue residence. * * *

"Mixed with political matters of national interest I have found much pleasant employment in family genealogy, which, while it is of great interest to the man looking into old family annals and traditions, this genealogical search is not always interesting to readers or listeners outside of the family circle. In connection with genealogical work I was taken in the Buick car in September to a Chandler reunion held at Westchester, Pa. * * * Swithin Chandler, born in England, June 24, 1674, was my direct American Chandler ancestor.

"My dear Stratton, I will intrude what might be called a self inspection or a personal diagnosis; my physical powers seem to be functioning with normal efficiency, but the handicap of my stricken eyesight thwarts my longing desire to accompany my Harvard Classmates to the banquet of the Class of '79 to be given in Phillips Brooks House, June 20. May joy abound and the spirit of Auld Lang Syne rule the hour.

"Of course the reports of Commencement will be read to me, but not underestimating the news in the daily papers, the most prolific source of information, instruction, and entertainment for me, at least, is the radio; the greatest boon to those whose vision has been either curtailed or totally eclipsed.

"Four times a week and even oftener, I listen over the radio to the brilliant newspaper correspondents at Washington, who give us a vivid summary of the political situation in Washington, which, of course, means the political situation of the whole country. Then I listen each week to some great medical expert. * * * To the talks of these medical authorities and especially to the care bestowed on my diet and home life by my dear son Raphael Johnson and my dear daughter Helen Houghton Shortlidge, I thankfully attribute the fact that in the last fifty-one months the doctor has been called in but three times to see me professionally. Indeed, if I should maintain my present mental and physical condition to the end of my ninetieth year, I might open my tenth decade with the ambition to reach a century.

"Here my memory is jogged with a verse from Ben Jonson, whose tomb in Westminster Abbey inscribed 'O Rare Ben Jonson' I had passed hundreds of times during my sojourn in London,—

"'It is not growing like a tree in bulk doth make
man better be;
Nor living long an oak three hundred years,
To fall at last a log, dry, bald and sere.

The lily of the day is fairer far in May;
Tho' it might fall and die that night,
It was a plant and a flower of light.

In small proportions we just beauty see,
And in short measure Life may perfect be.'

What a consolatory thought is vouchsafed in that last line."

Our classmate encloses the following:

"July 28, 1928.

Mr. Herbert Hoover, Stanford University, California.

Dear Mr. Hoover: Kindly allow a Harvard man in his 89th year to say that his first Presidential vote was for Abraham Lincoln at Cambridge in 1864, and his latest for Calvin Coolidge in 1924.

I trust that I may be spared till November 6, to be one of the many millions who will elect Herbert Hoover, President of the United States, the worthy successor of our present great executive, Calvin Coolidge. Cordially,

SWITHIN CHANDLER SHORTLIDGE.

Stanford University, Calif., Aug. 6.

Mr. Swithin Shortlidge, Camp Marienfeld, Chesham,
New Hampshire.

Dear Mr. Shortlidge: I am indeed glad to have your fine letter of July 26th. It is most encouraging to have the splendid support of one who has watched the Government of this country for so many years. Yours faithfully,

HERBERT HOOVER."

MOORFIELD STOREY. Born March 19, 1845.

He writes: "I am sorry I shall not be able to greet my classmates at Commencement. I expect to be at my summer home at Cranberry Isles, off Mount Desert, on that day.

"I am pleased to be able to say that I have had a peaceful and happy year, and I send to the surviving members of '66 my affectionate regards and all best wishes.

"My oldest grandson, Richard C. Storey, Jr., has been married to Miss Mabel B. Thayer, daughter of the late Bayard Thayer of Boston and Lancaster."

CHARLES EDWIN STRATTON. Born November 17, 1846.

He has had a cheerful but uneventful year and is glad and grateful to be permitted to greet you once more. He is only sorry that he cannot look forward to seeing every one of you at his home on Commencement Day.

He is the proud great-great-uncle of two great-great-nieces and one great-great-nephew. On telling some friend this interesting fact, the friend said, "Isn't that great!" Your secretary restrained himself from saying "Oh! no, great-great." He has been moved to put in a picture of this great-great-nephew, Hollis French, 2nd, and himself, this in spite of his inborn modesty, but it is really inserted that his classmates may have the pleasure of gazing upon this fine boy.

THOMAS WREN WARD. Born October 8, 1844.

He writes: "Depending on the powers that be, whether they will allow me freedom, I will be with you on the appointed day. The world seems so terribly interesting it seems a pity to leave so soon, when by the 'Mauretania' I might flee to Europe, to Spain above all, or by aëroplane to California. Or even at home I may watch the miracle of the world made new in foliage and flowers, such promise of renewed vitality and crescent force. For occupation I am busy with lives of Asquith, Churchill's Aftermath, and Fay's Origin of the War, and the current events of the day, all which biographies of the present and past fill me with a forecast of future unfolding of history. I shall hope to be with you and greet the 'Old Guard.'"

The Secretary and His Great-Great-Nephew
Hollis French 2d, Summer of 1928

LEONARD WHEELER. Born August 31, 1845.

He writes: "Yes, I have much to tell you, though perhaps I may take few words to do it. You know what a handicap my eyes have always been ever since I graduated from college, resulting finally in inability to read or to navigate the streets alone. Well, on February 11 I had an operation for cataract with result that I can see all that anybody need to. It is a resurrection! Think of it! I can mingle with my fellow men, I can read anything, I can go it alone.

"Then, too, my second son, Leonard, Jr., is just announcing his engagement (first in the family) to a very nice girl, and that helps our cheer. I hope to share your kind hospitality on Commencement Day."

JOHN DAVIS WILLIAMS. Born May 17, 1845.

He writes: "I do not see any use in publishing the fact that 'health is as usual and life without events of any interest to the class.'

"I think your annual report might be summed up in very few words, only speaking of men who have been laid up or suffered from illness,—the rest as usual."

The Secretary hopes our classmate will pardon him for telling you that Williams has just been to Springfield for a couple of days and had a fine time at the wedding of his grandnephew.

CLASSMATES NOT GRADUATED WITH US

JAMES MURRAY FORBES. Born July 17, 1845.

He writes: "I am very sorry that I cannot be with you and the other boys on June 20. I am expecting to go to Dark Harbor, Maine, on June 12, with my daughter Dorothy. I have had my summer outing there for the past 29 years.

"I think that you are very good to entertain the boys at your home and it emphasizes the fact that as Class Secretary these many years you have kept us so close to your heart.

"I am getting along with my deafness and various ailments of old age as well as can be expected in the face of the loss on January 7th of my devoted helpmate of 57½ years.

"With fond remembrances to you and all my classmates, I am,

Affectionately,

"You can put this in your annual booklet if you see fit and will not delete the second paragraph. I am aware of your modesty on previous occasions."

JOSEPH HENRY WILLARD. Born February 28, 1843.

He writes: "As I had to bear my fine for A. W. O. L. from West Point I send you also a check for $25 for absence from the Class of '66, for I can't get out—like the starling in a cage.

"I have been most of the time in bed since January, but got up when we had a short hot spell last month—and then paid for my indiscretion and was put back for another session with Tic and Sinus, from which there is no escape for one of my age, for none but an enthusiastic young surgeon would venture to operate.

"Otherwise I am doing very well. The Doctor says that heart and lungs and kidneys are all right, appetite good, and all I need do is to be quiet and not worry myself or any one else.

"I hope you will have fair weather and full number of the faithful.

"You won't mind my sending a check to contribute to the outing, taxis, etc.

"Love to all the good '66rs.

"Faithfully yours."

The class will be interested in this extract from an article in the *Boston Herald* of April 12, 1929, on the Federal Court Dockets:

"Difficulty In 1920

"Difficulty in handling the federal court dockets was first encountered here after January, 1920, when William McCarthy and his corps of newly appointed prohibition agents set out to dry up Massachusetts and proceeded not wisely, but with an excess of enthusiasm.

"But the first few months of their activities clogged the federal courts here in a manner never visioned by even the most pessimistic prophets. It was not unusual to find McCarthy and his group in the office of the late United States Commissioner Hayes daily with a score of new cases.

"Hayes Kept His Head

"Commissioner Hayes did valiant work in clearing up the muddle. His farsighted decisions and clear grasp of the fundamentals of federal practice enabled him to keep his head and select the wheat from the chaff. More than one of his early rulings, which perforce must have been based upon common sense rather than precedent, later found the approval of the United States Supreme Court."

The class also should read this book on our deceased classmate,

Thomas Sergeant Perry, by John T. Morse, Jr.
Boston, Houghton Mifflin Company.